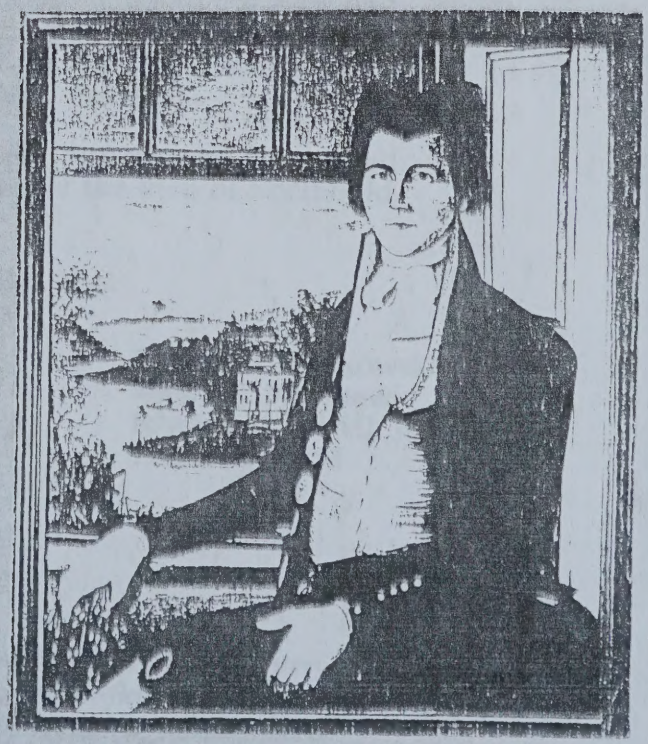
[c. 1989]

Northfield History Museum
&
Northfield Historical Commission

Men of Northfield



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Men

The Northfield History Museum

and

Northfield Historical Commission

present
to you

this booklet in recognition of

the contributions

of the

MEN OF NORTHFIELD

to their families, friends and community. Our town is a better place for their energy and efforts. We know that many more men might have been included, but time and money were the constraints. The folder is open-ended and we urge you, the reader, to add your own studies to the ones we have provided.

We are especially grateful to the writers who researched and wrote the individual stories of the men of Northfield.

The Committee:

Elizabeth Congdon
Claire Hanavan
Thomas J. Hurley
Robert P. Johnston
Rosa S. Johnston
Elizabeth Mankowski
Roman J. Mankowski
Edward M. Powell, Jr.
Francis B. Reed

The cover print of Timothy Swan, composer of Northfield, is copied from a photograph of an oil portrait attributed to Charles Lyman, a Northfield artist. The original is at the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Enhancing the Future - Preserving the Past

"Enhancing the future - preserving the past" -- these words of the 1996 motto of the Northfield History Museum were never as beautifully fulfilled or sanguinely expressed as through the pages that follow.

These men of Northfield, diverse of nature, background, vocation and avocation, unwittingly, unself-consiously, provide a legacy that reflects the history and culture of Northfield as much as any artifact or archive.

And so, Dear Reader -- come with us for a visit with some old acquaintances or an introduction to new friends!

Why did they come -- and why did they stay? Why did earlier settlers leave the familiar and secure to start anew in Northfield? Did they share the belief of unparalled opportunity to surpass a Euro-culture in independence and self-sufficiency, with a forum for differing opinions? Perhaps this strikes a similar chord for later newcomers.

If any common thread weaves together the sketches that follow, it is commitment to community. Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, tending to the needs of children, developing and patronizing local business to strengthen Northfield's economy, reverence for the land and concern for the environment all have a familiar ring. "The good old days" were not spared from war, natural disasters or financial downturns nor was the cherished commodity of free time less elusive. One can only marvel at these single-handed "support groups!"

Please turn the page and begin your visit, Dear Reader! We pause in gratitude also to remember the men -- and our other writers -- whose personal, heartfelt ruminations fill these pages. Valuable as any reliquary, the treasures they hold are the timbre of Northfield, awaiting the reader to enjoy -- and ponder. Just as portraits reveal something of their artists, these sketches, too, provide us with most agreeable companions as they lend their views and create a new era.

Claire Hanavan

MEN OF NORTHFIELD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Holton Family . . . . . Brenda Gibson
"Following in the family tradition, Clifford helped his father on the farm."

Abijah Prince . . . . . David R. Proper
"He was among the original grantees of the wilderness tract." Abstract *

Timothy Swan . . . . . Rosa S. Johnston
"He had a well stored mind...and a genial temperament"

The Stearns Builders . . . . . J. Ritchie Garrison
"Most of these houses still stand."

Jacob Boston . . . . . Rosa S. Johnston
"The same accounting shows his purchases to be simple."

Hezekiah B. Coller . . . . . Betty Congdon
"By 1829 both the farm and mill had been lost." Abstract *

Calvin T. Swan . . . . . Rosa S. Johnston
"...a hard working and much respected family man."

James Barry & Daniel O'Keefe . . . . . Eleanor O'Keefe Landis
"Daniel had dreams of owning his own land."

A Venerable Northfield Name: . . . . . Roman and Elizabeth
John Wesley Bennett Mankowski
"He organized a new V.F.W. post."

Dwight Lyman Moody . . . . . Virginia McDonald and
"... he took a train to Northfield as soon as possible." Ted, Jack & David Powell

George Asahel Peeler . . . . . Edward E. Fortier
"Unlike previous Union commanders he did not retreat." Abstract *

Rev. Arthur N. Thompson . . . . . Jane C. Sonoski
"... he was moved by the beauty of the land."

Arthur Percy Fitt . . . . . Virginia McDonald and
"His temporary job became a way of life." Ted, Jack & David Powell

* Abstract - complete manuscript may be seen at the Northfield History Museum.

John T. Callaghan . . . . . Margaret Calder
"Our big old kitchen was a gathering place" Abstract *

Herbert Austin Reed . . . . . Francis and Russell Reed,
"All were thrown into water ten or twelve feet deep." as told to Betty Congdon

George Washington Carr . . . . . Robert P. Johnston
"When he...saw something that needed doing,
he just got out and tended to it."

Charles Sumner Tenney . . . . . Joel N. Fowler
"His farm was noted for being the home of Jersey cows" Abstract *

John and Viola Mankowski . . . . . Roman J. Mankowski
"All too often we hear that things are different today."

Northfield Provides a New Beginning for. . . . . Stanley Gorzocoski
a Ukrainian Family: Paul & Julia Gorzocoski
"...they never worked on Sunday other then necessary chores."

Edward Merriam Powell . . . . . Virginia McDonald and
"They were the first couple to be married in Russell Sage Chapel." Ted, Jack & David Powell

Ernest A. Parker . . . . . James Clark
"Buppa was the first person to hold us."

Dr. F. Wilton Dean . . . . . Marion Dean, as told
"He liked to make his house calls first thing in the morning." to Betty Congdon

Dr. Ansel B. True . . . . . The True family
"At weddings he was as proud as the parents."

Fernand "Chick" Caron . . . . . Agnes Caron
"The West Northfield Playground history began in April of 1948."

Douglas Abbey Jones . . . . . Martha L. Jones
"As a matter of fact there are three"

Philip M. Mann, Jr. . . . . Dorothy Mann
"They sold everything from hardware to footwear"

Paul Douglas Bolton . . . . . Edie Clark
"In spite of his illness, he continued to work at his carpentry."

The pieces are arranged in
chronological order, by birthdate.

* Abstract - complete manuscript may be seen at the Northfield History Museum.

The Holton Family

Holtons have been a part of Northfield history since its first settlement in 1673, but not until the third settlement did a Holton actually come to live in Northfield. William, born in 1675 in Dedham, Massachusetts, moved here with his family and two brothers from Northampton in 1717. William was a weaver by trade. He served Northfield as fence viewer in 1719 and constable in 1722. He was once one of the five largest land holders in Northfield. Before his death in 1755, he deeded most of his land to his children.

One of those children, John, the eldest son, was eleven years old when his family moved to Northfield. John was a sergeant in the last French and Indian War. He served the town as selectman in 1753 and 1756.

John, born in 1747, was the sixth child of John. He served as corporal in the Revolutionary War beginning in 1775, following the Battle of Lexington. John was in Captain Merriman's company in 1777 at the Battle of Saratoga and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne. At the time of his death in 1825, John owned about eighty-six acres of land in Northfield.

Horace, the eldest child of John, was born in 1780. In 1811, Horace purchased his first land holdings in Northfield - forty-six acres on Moose Plain and Second Moose Plain in West Northfield. By 1841, his land holdings had grown - he was taxed for 211 acres. Before his death in 1858, Horace had sold his land to his sons and kept only life tenancy on his home place.

Roswell was the seventh child of Horace and was born in 1814. Another farmer in a long line of farmers, in 1847 Roswell was taxed for seventy-two acres of land with buildings, two horses, two cows, one yearling colt, seventy sheep and two swine. He served the town as selectman for several years. In 1848, he sold some of his land to the Connecticut Valley Railroad Company for a track to run through West Northfield to Vermont. By 1867, Roswell's farm had grown to 120 acres.

Clifford, born in 1857, was the fourth child of Roswell. Following in the family tradition, Clifford remained on the home farm with his parents and helped his father on the farm. Following Roswell's death in 1893, Clifford took over ownership of the farm and continued his life as a farmer until his death in 1938. His youngest son, Carleton, became the next "Holton farmer." Upon Carleton's retirement, the Holton family farm and land were sold out of the Holton family, though many Holton descendents still live in West Northfield on land once owned by earlier Holton family members.

Abijah Prince
(1706-1794)

Sometime about 1750, a new black presence made itself known in Deerfield. Abijah Prince, formerly "servant" to the Rev. Benjamin Doolittle of Northfield, must have captured the attention of Deerfield's slave population because of his "free" status. Born about 1706, Abijah was brought with Doolittle's household from Wallingford, Connecticut in 1717. The Northfield pastor perhaps gave Abijah his freedom and some real estate rights before he died, for in 1751 Abijah Prince is cited as proprietor in the fourth division of Northfield lands and owner of at least 20 acres. However, town records fail to fully confirm this. He did receive a lot in the sixth division of common land, number 47, one acre and 40 rods on South Mountain Road, just east of Route 63. Historian George Sheldon says Abijah held his Northfield property until 1782, although he does not seem to have resided there after 1752. On December 10, 1785, the "laborour" Abijah Prince of Guilford, Vermont, sold this lot to Samuel Merriman for 20 shillings.

Benjamin Doolittle was of a prominent family which might be expected to have had slaves. However, Abijah as his property is not mentioned among Northfield slaves in an "Historical Sketch" read by Deacon Phineas Field at a meeting of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association February 2, 1879. Doolittle died suddenly on January 9, 1748/9, and evidently left no will. In the inventory of his estate recorded at Northampton, there is no mention of slave property. It has been suggested that Abijah was granted his freedom in recognition of military service, and Sheldon even includes his name on a 1748/9 military role, together with Sedawdy, an Indian.

Why, Deerfield slaves must have wondered, could Abijah come and go as he pleased, decide for himself what work he would do, and be able to play court to one of their number, the loquacious Lucy Terry? Abijah persevered and prevailed: "Abijah Prince and Lucy Terry Servant to Ens. Eben Wells were married May ye 17, 1756..." The couple set up housekeeping a little to the east of the village, on land owned by Ebenezer Wells at the eastern end of his property, part of lot No. 26. If Abijah did not own the land, he gave to it his name: the nearby brook was long known as "Bijah's brook;" also nearby was "Abijah's hill" where Laurel Hill Cemetery was later laid out.

Abijah Prince was industrious and carried accounts with several individuals and merchants of Deerfield. Samuel Field (1678-1762) was a prominent Deerfield citizen and substantial landowner there and in Northfield. He was one of the original 1736 grantees of Guilford, Vermont, where he is said to have promised Abijah a 100-acre lot in his newly-opened territory. After Samuel's death his son David Field conveyed lot No 187 in Guilford to Abijah in 1781, although Prince perhaps lived there as early as 1765. David's wife, Thankful, was the widow of Oliver Doolittle, eldest son of Abijah's old master, the Reverend Benjamin Doolittle.

Even before he left Deerfield, Abijah sought security for himself and his young family as a proprietor of Sunderland, Vermont. He was among the original 64 grantees of the wilderness tract chartered July 29, 1761, and the only one of the grantees to actually settle there, Abijah drew an equal share in all six divisions of Sunderland common land, where his holdings amounted to upwards of 300 acres. In Sunderland Abijah and Lucy established themselves south of the Batten Kill River, not far from the home of Colonel Ethan Allen, who had located on the opposite side of the creek. Abijah and Lucy may have been discouraged by their Sunderland ordeal where "for many years they were more or less aided by the town," and returned to Guilford where Abijah spent his final years. His death on January 9, 1794, age 88, was recorded by the church. His grave was marked by a slate headstone which was respected by owners of the property until it was plowed over about 1890; but the spot continued to be pointed out as the "Bijah lot," final resting place of the black pioneer.

Timothy Swan
(1758-1842)

Born in Worcester, Masschusetts, the son of William Swan, a goldsmith from Boston, and Livina Keyes, Timothy is recognized as a composer and author of "China," "Poland," and other pieces of sacred music. He published "New England Harmony" in 1801. He also served as a store clerk for seven years and was trained as a hatter. None of his poetry has been found but the records show he served as librarian for Northfield's first library, called the Social Library.

He first came to Northfield about 1775 with his widowed mother who came to live with her daughter Catherine, wife of hatter Caleb Lyman, in a house at the corner of Main Street and Parker Avenue. A drawing still exists showing the house and a carriage. Present day Northfielders know it as "Miss Webster's" home, 76 Main Street.

Timothy married Mary, daughter of Ebenezer Gay, D.D. of Suffield, Connecticut, and niece of epitaphist Rev. Bunker Gay of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Parents of fourteen children, the Swans resided at 88 Main Street. Their fine federal style house became the headquarters of the commune "Brotherhood of the Spirit" in the 1960s. It also served as pioneer station and national headquarters for the American Youth Hostel and Youth Argosy movements in the 1950s.

After the house was destroyed in a disastrous fire, the site became "Squakeag Village" or Northfield's senior housing.

As portrayed in his portrait, Swan is a fine, elegant gentleman. His niece is quoted, "My personal recollections are always pleasant. He had a well stored mind, a retentive memory, and a genial temperament, that made him a most agreeable companion."

A daughter, Mary Gay, was married on January 20 1808 to Charles Dana; their home is the present Woodstock, Vermont Historical Society Museum. A sister Livina married Vermont's lieutenant governor, Jonathan Hunt of Vernon. Their restored mansion is the present day Energy Information Center at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon, Vermont.

The portrait of Timothy Swan, shown in black and white on our cover, has been attributed to artist Charles Lyman, Swan's nephew and son of Caleb Lyman and Catherine Swan Lyman of Northfield.. It is interesting to note that the portrait of Rhoda Smith of Northfield, now at the Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, Massachusetts, used on the cover of the 1989 "Ladies of Northfield" booklet, is also attributed to Charles Lyman.

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The Stearns Builders

Calvin and Statyra Stearns

The Stearns family dominated the carpentry trade on Northfield's main street during the nineteenth century. Two generations of the family are documented by account and day books in the Northfield History Museum.

Calvin Stearns House, 1805

Calvin Stearns was born in Warwick, Massachusetts in 1779, the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Stratton Stearns. After turning twenty-one, he and two friends traveled to Vermont, working in Brookfield, Windsor, and Wethersfield. It was in Windsor that Stearns was exposed to the architecture of Asher Benjamin who had designed three houses there in 1800. During the next seven years, Stearns worked intermittently in Cambridge, Brookline, and Boston, Massachusetts, on buildings designed by Peter Banner and Charles Bulfinch. Although he had started a house in Northfield in 1805, he did not live permanently in the town until 1807 when he returned with his young bride, Statyra Richardson. They had six sons and four daughters; five of the sons became carpenters and worked in the Northfield area.

Between 1811 and 1843 Calvin and his brother, Samuel Stearns, built at least seventeen houses in Northfield and remodeled many more. Most of these houses still stand. Calvin Stearns died in 1857.

Samuel Stearns House, 1819-1825

Samuel Stearns was born in Warwick in 1782. He worked with his brother Calvin in Boston and Northfield, and lived with him in Northfield for more than a year, but none of "Sam's" account books survive and he is known primarily from entries in Calvin's accounts. The two men were close for their entire lives and owned property jointly until Sam's death. It is likely that Samuel Stearns built houses in Northfiield without the assistance of his brother, but none are documented. Sam worked in New Hampshire for more than a year in the 1820s while his brother Calvin completed Sam's house near Northfield's most important intersection. This house was significantly different than other dwellings in Northfield and solidified the Stearnses reputation as the town's most innovative builders. Samuel Stearns died in 1849.

George Stearns was the eldest son of Calvin and Statyra Stearns. Born in 1815, he was considered handsome and talented. He began working as a carpenter with his father in 1828, but also taught school in several Massachusetts towns, and, eventually, Wilmington, Delaware. George returned to Northfield in 1843 and began building his own house on The Street. He and his brothers built more than a dozen houses in Northfield. George and his brother Charles also spent four years in Brattleboro, Vermont, superintending the construction of the Lawrence Water Cure and many other structures. Only two of the Brattleboro buildings still stand, but most of the Northfield buildings survive.

George Stearns House, 1843-45

George Stearns married his first cousin, Charity Richardson, in 1845. He had two children, but died at the age of 45 in 1859.

J. Ritchie Garrison, University of Delaware

Jacob Boston

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Jacob Boston, one of Northfield's so called "Black Yankees," is listed as a laborer in his probate accounts. These records indicate that he had done farm work, got out stone, built a stone wall, cut wood and delivered it to the riverbank for shipment down river. The same accounting shows his purchases to be simple: some rum, groceries, repair of farm tools, a violin string and a surtout, a kind of coat. These charges are from both Erving and Northfield merchants. Most interesting on the list of his estate are a violin and a writing desk.

The writing desk and the signature on the documents are important, as they indicate he had some training or schooling, which is more opportunity that many of his white neighbors received: many of them signed their wills and deeds with an "x."

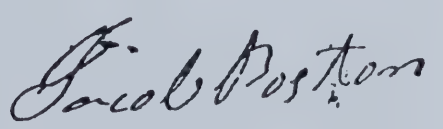
William D. Piersen writes in *Black Yankees* that "a black man could earn a little extra cash with his African ability to energize white music." Jacob may well have provided this delight for his mountain neighbors at their many dances and parties.

In 1819 Jacob purchased forty acres with buildings from William Wright for $400. He in turn sold this homesite to his half-brother Calvin T. Swan in 1824. The land was part of Lot 19 in the third division of land laid out to Zechariah Field and later called the Dudley farm before it became part of the Wright farm.

One confusing record in the 1818 and 1819 Calvin Stearns account books refers to work done by a Calvin Boston. Was there a Calvin Boston or was the entry for work done by Jacob Boston's half-brother Calvin Swan? Perhaps the two families - Swan and Boston - were so closely identified that their mountain neighbors considered them one family. We also find a deed which refers to a Samuel Swan dwelling on the east bound of a piece of mountain land. Calvin T. Swan might have been the owner of the piece of land to the east, not his father Samuel.

When Jacob Boston died in 1826, his mother Polley Boston Swan wrote that she did not wish to act as administrator of his estate and suggested John Nevers be appointed. It was so done and these legal records are our main source of information about Jacob. His neighbors served as the appraisers of his estate.

No record has been found for place of birth or the burial site for Jacob Boston.



Hezekiah B. Coller (1794-1880)

East of Crag Mountain, the highest point in Northfield, is a mountainous corner of town where the 19th century population was large enough to support three district schools. Those who find today's abandoned cellar holes or read the dates on gravestones in the South Mountain or Coller Cemeteries may wonder why families came to this remote place in the late 1700s or why they left a century later.

A key figure in the mountain community of the 1800s was Hezekiah B. Coller. He lived on Orange Road, which turns left beside the old District #6 schoolhouse just after you crest the steepest part of Gulf Road, headed for Erving. After fighting in the Revolutionary War, his grandfather Uriah moved his family from Needham to Orange, Massachusetts. There Hezekiah's father, also named Hezekiah, wed Hannah Briggs and purchased land north of Orange Road in Northfield's undeveloped hills.

They may have moved here as early as 1794, the year their son Hezekiah B. was born. Many early settlers of Northfield's hills practiced building trades besides being farmers. A number were Methodists, for whom the elder Hezekiah was one of two early leaders recorded in 1812; close bonds of blood and belief existed in the area.

Hezekiah B. Coller was known, at least to relatives, as "Kiah." He may have done some blacksmithing, but his occupation listed on an 1829 deed was that of carpenter. He did a job for the builder Calvin Stearns in 1814, when he was 20, the same year buying his first five acres of land for $36. On May 21, 1818, the owner of 68 acres, he was in a position to marry 20 year old Rhoda Robbins, daughter of early hilltop residents Asa and Abigail (White) Robbins.

By 1824 Hezekiah B. and Rhoda had three children, and when Rhoda's brother, Asa Robbins Jr., was about to marry Hezekiah's sister Lovisa, the two young brothers-in-law launched a bold venture: the purchase of a sawmill in Warwick for which they had to take a large mortgage. The following year Hezekiah mortgaged his farm and then began to sell off his Northfield property, apparently to meet payments on the mill. By 1829 both the farm and mill had been lost, and two little sons had died. Hezekiah and Rhoda must have lived with relatives until 1833 when, with five living children, Hezekiah borrowed $50 from his brother Leonard to buy five acres of his father's Orange Road farm, and built a home there across from Swamp Road.

During these same difficult years, Hezekiah was becoming a noted Methodist preacher and lay minister, officiating at mountain weddings. In 1830 he was one of five church trustees (as was Calvin Swan: see his writeup) who bought land to erect a house of worship south of the #6 school, on the west side of Gulf Road. Respected in the larger community, "Rev. Hezekiah B. Coller" was one of three ministers elected to the seven-man town School Superintending Committee in 1837. In 1840, at the age of 42, Rhoda Coller bore her tenth and last child, named Adeline. Other living children were Emily, Livonia, Asa R., Albert, Martha, Amos Mason and Philanda Rosamond.

Methodists nationwide were being split over the issue of slavery by the late 1830s and, given strong anti-slavery sentiment on the mountain, the 1844 withdrawal of the local church from the New England Conference was perhaps due to this issue. It may have hurt Coller's livelihood in the ministry for the following year, already in his 50s, he built a sawmill on Keyup Brook, south of his home. Swimming and skating at the H.B. Coller & Co. millpond was an added benefit to the local community. After the death of his father in 1852, Hezekiah sold shares in the mill to his two older sons. However, it was the youngest son, A. Mason, who stayed to care for his parents when his brothers followed young neighbors to more industrialized places, leaving mainly their elders behind. In 1863, at age 69, Hezekiah sold all of his 85 acres to Mason, who bought his brothers' shares in the mill. But a small mill on a stream of little volume faced increasing competition from larger mills in more central locations. In 1874 the Collers moved to Athol, where Hezekiah died in 1880 and Rhoda four years later.

Calvin T. Swan
(1799-1875)

In 1816 a contract was made "to hire Widow Swan's boy Calvin to work for me, if he is able to do my work, until he is twenty-one and forty-two and a half dollars is the utmost I agree per year and cloths and expenses to come out of the same." Thus this son of Samuel and Polley Boston Swan was apprenticed to Calvin and Samuel Stearns, Northfield's premier architect-builders. He was seventeen years old and probably living with his widowed mother on a one acre plot of land on the north side of Turnpike Road.

Calvin T. must have had a natural talent, as well as good training. By 1819 he had become a skilled joiner and carpenter. Again, it is the Stearns account book that provides the information that he received 75 cents per day for work he did on a house in the Farms; this was an excellent wage for the time. His mentor Calvin Stearns was paid the largest sum of $1 per day for his work on the same house. In 1839 Joseph Lyman's account book attests to Calvin T.'s skill, as he paid him to draw the plans for his house. We have no record of Swan's building the house, although it would have been logical. The house still stands on Main Street in East Northfield, albeit it has been remodeled and moved to the back of the lot.

In later years, 1845-49, he was as much a businessman as a carpenter. The records show that he sawed and delivered logs to the riverbank for transport as well as preparing boards for builders.

Calvin had a long and close relationship with his mother's family - the Bostons. In 1824 he purchased from his half-brother, Jacob Boston, the farm of forty acres located at the top of Gulf Road on Northfield Mountain. He moved there with his first wife, Rhoda Brown of Ashford, Connecticut. Over the years he added to his land holdings, owning 103 acres at the time of his death. Only one purchase of land was outside Northfield, and that in the Cheapside section of Greenfield.

Calvin served his community well, as a member of the #6 Wright District Public School and as an active member and committeeman for Northfield's Methodist Church, also located on Gulf Road.

It is only in Northfield's census records that we learn that Calvin was mulatto (1865 and 1870 censuses); in the 1860 census he was listed as black.

It was surviving children, George B. and Hannah A., and his second wife, the former Sarah Knight of Salem, Massachusetts, who divided his estate, including the 103 acres, house and barn, stock, carpenter's tools and a library. That he chose to list the library and its division is significant and an indication of the values he held.

His children were working away from Northfield at the time of his death. George B., a jeweler in Potsdam, New York, served as executor; daughter Hannah A., or H. Adeline, was a recognized artist working in Boston. Another daughter (Rhoda) Cornelia had passed away in Boston at age twenty-eight but we do not know her work. His son Frederick William, who died at age twenty-one in 1849, was a jeweler and a writer. His nineteen page pamphlet "Remarkable Visionary Dreams of a Mulatto Boy," written while he was living and working in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, has recently been located. According to inscriptions on the Swan family monument in Northfield's Center Cemetery, Calvin and Rhoda's sons Calvin Harrison and Calvin Truman died as children.

All indications and records point to a hard working and much respected family man who, with his wives, raised a talented family on Gulf Road in Northfield.

James Barry (1814-1887) *** Daniel O'Keefe (1848-1919)

In 1849, James Barry and his two year old daughter, Joanna, came to America from County Cork, Ireland, in search of a better life. He came to Northfield when he found work as a laborer on the railroad. He saved his money and achieved the goal of every Irishman - his own land and home. The Northfield Village inset in the Beers Franklin County map of 1858 indicates that J. Barry owned a house on Meadow Lane.

On August 15, 1869, Daniel O'Keefe arrived at the Port of New York from County Cork, Ireland. He had relatives in Northfield and had some hope of getting a laborer's job on the railroad. In the record of his marriage to Joanna Barry in Northfield town records of April 29, 1876, his occupation was listed as "Railroad." We know he was a stone mason so we assume he did some of this type of work on the railroad.

Like most Irishmen, Daniel had dreams of owning his own land. He and Joanna Barry O'Keefe were able to buy a house with an acre of land on School Street at public auction in 1878. They paid $250 for the property, $50 in cash; they took a mortgage with Sophie Parsons for $200. Over the years they paid off the mortage and added three more adjacent tracts for a total of 7 1/2 acres. They also bought 5 acres in the meadows.

Joanna and Daniel had one son, Charles William. He attended local schools and then went across the river to Gill on the ferry to attend Mount Hermon. He was later to go to Boston, where he attended business college and found work with an international company. He married Elizabeth Corish of Woburn. They had four children, Daniel, Anne, Eleanor and Josephine.

Today there are 13 great-grandchildren of Joanna and Daniel O'Keefe - all college educated. They include a priest, two professional singers, a nurse, teachers, businessmen, landscape architects, engineers, a Christian musician and poet and, most important of all, parents of 15 great, great grandchildren.

They all cherish their Northfield roots and take every opportunity to visit the small house on School Street whenever they can.

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from Chicago
Virginia
England -
daughter of Ann
O'Keefe, Ellie's
Sister. Julie is
Ellie's daughter

A Venerable Northfield Name:
John Wesley Bennett

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Exactly seven tenths of a mile from Route 63 on South Mountain Road stands an imposing structure, now the home of Linden Hill School for boys, overlooking the majestic valley scene of Northfield. It was from this outlook, or just above it, that Richard Beers and his three fellow explorers probably first viewed the Northfield lands, and made a good report to the Bay Colony Commission that sent them to investigate the possibility of a settlement.

In the early 1900s, Asahel F. Bennett and Grace (Bennett) Bennett discovered this same impressive location, with the fine Stearns-built home once owned by the Merriman family. They decided to purchase the property of 100 acres, more or less, and make it their retirement home, although they were far from retirement age. They were living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, near his new assignment with Crane & Company. Originally from Chicago, they had roots in nearby New Hampshire, namely Westmoreland and Winchester.

The first John Wesley Bennett, the father of Grace B. Bennett, was born in Westmoreland on January 31, 1837. He served in the Civil War, enlisting in the cavalry in 1861, and was mustered out in 1864 as a colonel. He took part in numerous engagements throughout the war, wearing the Bennett name with great distinction. After the war he went to college in Albany, New York, where one of his classmates was McKinley, who later became President. Soon after earning his law degree he went to Chicago, where he practiced law for twenty years.

In his association with John Frink, whose daughter he married, John W. Bennett the first participated in many new land and building developments in a suburb of Chicago now known as Cicero, Illinois. Here were born John W. F. Bennett, Grace Bennett and a daughter who later became Mrs. Dudley Taylor. The family grew and prospered in this Chicago area and it was here that Grace Bennett married Asahel Frank Bennett, who was then working for Crane & Co. in Chicago.

The next generation was born to Asahel and Grace Bennett at their South Mountain Road home in Northfield. First was born Dorothy Bennett and then John W. Bennett the second, who became a doctor and saw service in the Navy during World War II, in the South Pacific and also in France. After separating from the Navy as a lieutenant commander, he started a medical practice in Turners Falls. During this time he organized a new V.F.W. post in Northfield and was also a booster in the Civil Air Patrol, an Elk, Moose and belonged to Lions International.

John W. Bennett III, who lives in California, is also a medical doctor and is bringing up a family of six children, one of them being John W. Bennett IV; the tradition lives on, and with obvious pride.

It should be noted that the Civil War Colonel John Wesley Bennett was well known in Northfield at the time of his death in 1920, since his wife died twelve years before him and he spent many of his final years on South Mountain Road with his daughter, Grace B. Bennett.

Dwight Lyman Moody
(1837-1899)

So much has been told, read and written about Dwight Lyman Moody that it is hard to get back to what he was like when Northfield first knew him.

When he was born (February 5, 1837) he had four older brothers and one older sister, aged nine to two. By the time he was five he had two more brothers and another sister, and his father had died. He had the benefit of growing up knowing what it was like to be poor, to work hard for things he needed, to appreciate the freedom of rural life and to face the world as part of a large family with a remarkable mother, Betsy Holton Moody.

He has been described as being a typical boy, combining mischief with his heavy load of chores, and preferring fishing to the constraints of a schoolroom. One does not come across references to his elders marking him as someone special, obviously headed for future success.

He always had great love and respect for his mother, but at 17 he left to find work in Boston and eventually in Chicago. His call to evangelical work there developed into full-time dedication to religious projects. By 1860 he had become engaged to one of his Sunday School teachers, Emma Charlotte Revell. They were married in 1862. D. L. Moody's growing fame as a preacher kept them traveling much of the time. By 1876 they had two children and they bought a home in Northfield, realizing they needed quiet spells in a familiar atmosphere where Moody could visit with his mother, drive around town seeing friends, and enjoy the beauties of his birthplace with the two children, later followed by a third child.

D. L. Moody's contributions to Northfield were most evident from 1876 until his death, because he never stopped thinking up combined educational and evangelical projects and, with self-confidence, setting them in motion. The Northfield Seminary opened in 1879 and Mount Hermon School in 1881, for starters. That was done with help from all kinds of people, local as well as school authorities from elsewhere. The first religious conference was held in Northfield in 1880, one of many to follow in the next 50 years or so, each bringing large assortments of people from near and far. Next came Moody's so-called "Folly," the Auditorium on the Northfield campus. It is still used for many kinds of events. (Has anyone kept track of how many times it has been full to overflowing - 2,000 people or more - in 100 years or so?)

D. L. Moody's home base remained in Northfield while he set up more worldwide travels to preach, extensive publication enterprises for distributing religious literature, and also kept track of ways to help local organizations.

When Moody became ill in the midwest in 1899 he took a train to Northfield as soon as possible. He died on December 22, 1899, at home where he wanted to be.

All in all his outspoken personal affection and enthusiasm for his home town, along with that expressed by many other residents and visitors through the years, have continued to make Northfield a well known place that people hope to visit.

George Asahel Peeler
(1843 - 1864)

By the summer of 1862, with the Civil War a little over a year old, the tide of war was shifting and the Confederacy was again on the offensive. Lincoln's hopes for a peaceful reconciliation had vanished and he sent out a call for 300,000 new three-year volunteers. One young man who answered this call to arms was George Asahel Peeler. Peeler was born in Vermont, probably near Brattleboro, in 1843. He was the oldest child of George W. Peeler, a twenty-five year old carpenter, and his wife Maria, only nineteen. About a year after young George's birth his family moved to West Northfield, where six more children were born.

In 1862 George A. Peeler was nineteen years old and working with his father on the farm. On August 4 he enlisted with a Vermont infantry regiment being formed in Brattleboro, probably so he could serve with two cousins who were joining the same unit. The 11th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment was mustered into service on September 1, 1862, boarding the train for the nation's capital six days later. There they were assigned to garrison Forts Totten and Slocum, toiling for the next twenty months to build some of the seven miles of fortifications protecting Washington from the north.

On December 10, 1862, the 11th Vermont ceased to exist, by orders of the War Department becoming the 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery Regiment. Feeling isolated from the hardships of war, they spent their days drilling with cannon, finishing fortifications and doing sentry duty at bridges, prisons and official diplomatic functions. On December 28, George Peeler was promoted to Corporal. While off duty, the soldiers were exposed to the "social evils" that were devouring Washington during this period, and their numbers were decimated by diseases like smallpox which were epidemic in the city.

In early May 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant was defeated in the Wilderness. Unlike previous Union commanders he did not retreat to lick his wounds, but marched south toward the rebel capital of Richmond. On May 12 he ordered all able-bodied troops to the front to reinforce his army. Peeler's regiment suddenly found itself transformed back into infantry as members of the 6th Army Corps. Upon their arrival at Spotsylvania Court House on May 15 they moved immediately into trenches where over 7,000 men had died in the days before; the 1st Vermont suffered heavy artillery fire although they were not engaged in intense fighting.

From this point on the men were battle-seasoned infantry rather than artillerists and would be actively involved in every battle fought by the 6th Corps: North Anna River (May 23-26), Cold Harbor (June 1-12), where the regiment suffered heavy losses, and Petersburg (June 17- July 9). On July 9 Grant ordered units including Peeler's 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery Regiment, with the rest of the 6th Corps, to rush north by ship to the defense of Washington; there they helped force Confederate troops to withdraw from an attack on Fort Stevens, the only battle President Lincoln would ever see.

The 6th Corps, with the newly designated Army of the Shenendoah under General Sheridan, then pursued the Confederates under Jubal Early into the Shenandoah Valley. In mid-September, Early was forced to send all but one division back to Petersburg to reinforce Lee. On the 19th Sheridan crossed Opequon Creek to attack the remaining rebels, driving them back toward Winchester. However, Early launched a counterattack against the 6th Corps just where the 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery was fighting. When Union troops were reinforced they again pushed Early back and took Winchester, but Corporal George Peeler had been seriously wounded earlier. He died on the following day, September 20, 1864, and was buried in the West Northfield Cemetery; his is the tall brown monument in the northeast corner.

Rev. Arthur N. Thompson

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In 1901, Rev. Arthur N. Thompson's inspiration to build a cottage upon the hillside gave birth to the Rustic Ridge, a village of summer cottages. It was Thompson's desire, as well as that of many other ministers attending the summer religious conferences held on the campus of Northfield School for Girls, to develop a religious haven. D.L. Moody, the founder of the conferences, advocated the construction of cottages, but it was Rev. Thompson who discovered the splendid location at the tip of North Lane,

As he was walking, he was moved by the beauty of the land and decided that the hillside was the perfect spot. So Thompson hired a builder, Howard S. Harris, a 1902 graduate of Mount Hermon School, who built his cottage in a week for a total cost of $300.45. To his delight, Thompson learned that it was much more economical to live in a hillside cottage for a cost of $2.03 per week than the $7.00 weekly fee for campus accomodations in a tent (or more in a dormitory). In addition to being less costly, cottages were far more comfortable than the tents that would often flood in heavy rains.

Thompson's cottage, "Kenjockety," was the first of what would become a community. Thompson took pride in his idea and wrote to the editor about his project in the November 1901 issue of *Christian Work*. Thompson provided the impetus for the construction of more cottages. The next year, in 1902, four more cottages were built. The number of cottages grew until it reached its current number of seventy-one. The inhabitants of these homes work cooperatively as members of the Rustic Ridge Association. In 1906 this organization began as an executive committee, on which Rev. Thompson served for three years as secretary.

As years went on and the Rustic Ridge expanded, the original two positions on the committee expanded to include a variety of subcommittees like road maintenance, garbage collection, social events and more. When the conferences ended after World War II, the Rustic Ridge was no longer closely connected with the school but remained a closely-knit community tied together by tradition.

It is a select community whose members pass cottages on from one generation to the next. Although strong religious affiliation is no longer its driving force, all members take pride in the Rustic Ridge. Some feel the beauty of nature brings them closer to God. Like Rev. Thompson, members love the beauty of the land and it draws them back to their special place on the hillside year after year.

Arthur Percy Fitt (1869-1947)

Arthur Percy Fitt first met Dwight L. Moody in Dublin in October, 1892. By January of 1893, Fitt had graduated from Trinity College and sailed to the United States to become Moody's private secretary and general assistant during the six month Chicago World's Fair Evangelistic Campaign. After two busy months in other cities, April was set aside for rest and preparation in Northfield for the long six months in Chicago.

D. L. Moody, 55 years old, and Percy Fitt, just 23 years old, complemented each other perfectly. One had a rural background with little formal schooling. The other had made a brilliant record through university years and looked forward to being a lawyer in Ireland or England. Moody had been the sixth of nine children. Fitt was the twelfth of thirteen children and had lost his mother before he was two, his father when he was seven. Both men had dedication, energy and the courage of conviction, mixed with cheerful enjoyment of what life offered.

At about the same age that Moody was when he was seriously turning to evangelism, Fitt was learning from him what religion and following Christ might mean. His temporary job became a way of life - furthering the works of Dwight Moody and being actively as good a Christian as he could be.

Needless to say, a dimension was added to their close bonds when D. L. Moody's daughter, Emma, became Mrs. A. P. Fitt in May 1894, and the mother of Emma Moody Fitt on December 16, 1895. Like the Moodys, the Fitts had a Northfield home as their permanent residence.

Seven years after Arthur Percy Fitt met Dwight Lyman Moody and started sharing his absorbing, inspiring existence, Fitt was suddenly without his mentor, partner, idol, father-in-law and friend when D. L. Moody died. Maybe it was during that difficult period that he began carrying in his wallet a much-folded paper containing the words "I shall call upon thee in my hour of need for thou wilt answer me." For about ten years the Fitt family lived in Chicago while Percy worked to help Moody's projects there carry on. Eventually they returned to their Northfield home.

To this day, scholars continue to do research about Dwight Moody. In the decades right after his death, A. P. Fitt was better able than anyone to answer questions and be a sort of reassuring link to someone who had inspired so many. Actually, carrying on "The Work," as it was referred to in family circles, was Fitt's real mission for the rest of his life, regardless of what job titles he did or did not have. Northfield, the hub of many Moody projects, was an ideal place for Fitt to be.

He did leave during World War I, when he served with the Y.M.C.A. in France from 1917 to 1918. Upon his return he became editor of *The Record of Christian Work*, a publication of the Northfield Schools. From then until his death in 1947 he was one of those "solid citizens" every town likes to have - available for committees, active church goer, enthusiastic participant in amateur musicals, familiar citizen at Town Hall events, and unofficial booster of all kinds of worthy causes (like benefits on his lawn), among other activities.

His book *Moody Still Lives* was published in 1936. In it he says of D. L. Moody, "His one object in life was to awaken men to their standing before God and to win them to Him." The same could be said for Arthur Percy Fitt.

John T. Callaghan
(1874-1956)

John Callaghan was tall, handsome, strong and well liked. He was born in 1874. His parents came from Ireland and settled in the small community of Northfield around the 1860s.

His father died at the early age of 42. This left Grandma Callaghan to bring up six children on a small farm. Johnnie was 10 years old - the fourth child and only boy. I expect as he grew older the responsibility of running the farm fell heavily on his shoulders. Somehow they all pulled together and went on to become professional and productive citizens interested in the affairs of the nation, state, country and town.

As a young man my father met and married my mother, Flora Dunnell of Shelburne Falls - always a lady with a quiet, pleasant manner and good common sense. Her hair was dark above beautiful brown eyes that could express pleasure or displeasure without a word.

Their first home was near Bennett Meadow, where he farmed the rich soil alongside of the Connecticut River. Most of us were born in this house. Then they moved to the Wright house on Main Street in Northfield, a roomy old house with plenty of space to raise a family of eight. He owned and farmed the home land, Bennett Meadow and mountain acreage of wood lots. Owning land at this time was an investment.

Papa was always interested in the local town affairs. In 1920 he became a selectman in Northfield. Our big old kitchen was a gathering place for town folk to vent their feelings about town matters. I remember there was much laughter, for my father had a ready wit and was a good story teller.

Along came the Great Depression and Papa became Northfield's road commissioner. Funds from the W.P.A. put men to work through those hard times. Some would come to our door and beg for just one day's work to put food on the table. I would often see my father pass a grain sack to these families with stored vegetables and fruit, or lift a cooling loaf of fresh bread when my mother wasn't looking.

My father's life spanned two world wars. His only son served in World War II. At this time he took an active part in the local Civil Defense program.

There were many things my father found time to do with us, my mother and his and her families. He taught me how to ride a bicycle and ice skate. He loved baseball and was an active member of the Northfield Athletic Association in 1934. He also loved to dance and listen to the big band sounds on radio. He took my mother and us girls to the Town Hall dances.

As we grew and left home to build our own lives, my father built, with the help of his son Jim, a new home for my mother on East Street in Northfield. Here they lived and enjoyed visits from family, including 19 grandchildren, until he died at age 82 in 1956.

Through the years my father, mother and all the Callaghans were contributing and staunch members of St. Patrick's Church.

Herbert Austin Reed (1880-1931)

Herbert A. Reed was born in West Swanzy, New Hampshire on November 12, 1880. When he was five his family moved to West Northfield. He was the oldest of six sons and one daughter of George H. and Abbie E. (Joslin) Reed. Herbert's brother George was to become a contractor who built Greenfield's Garden Theater, with the stars in the ceiling, and the house south of Dickinson Library in Northfield.

On December 9, 1901, shortly after his 21st birthday, Herbert and another young man, Samuel Henry Smith, bought a sawmill from Sam's relative, Willie D. Morgan. The mill was built by George Long in 1874 and sold to Morgan in 1892. It was on Mill Brook, west of Main Street on Glen Road. The sawmill was down at brook level, just downstream from the Henry W. Webster gristmill, and was powered by a waterwheel with its own dam. Power was furnished by cable to an upper mill at road level where finishing and planing were done and the lumber sold. At that time Glen Road went through to the Connecticut River, where a covered bridge, carrying the train on an upper level, crossed into West Northfield.

The fall of 1904 was a momentous time for Herbert Reed, as he prepared to marry the sister of his partner, Sam Smith. On September 23, Sam sold Herbert his half share in the mill (later Sam became a baker and a driver for Francis R. Schell) and on October 12, Herbert bought a house east of the mill on Glen Road. On October 30, 1904, he was married by Rev. N. Fay Smith to Bessie Morgan Smith, daughter of Edward W. and Josephine D. (Morgan) Smith. Bessie's mother, "Josie," had taught at the Bee Hive school and helped her father to collect tolls for the covered bridge.

The first two houses on the right on Glen Road are where the Reeds lived, but the two houses were joined together at that time. There they raised four sons: Gordon Austin (born 1908), Francis Blake (1910), George Edward (1911) and Ralph Herbert (1916). In 1906 Herbert joined the Trinitarian Church, and in 1910 he was one of five trustees who bought land on Parker Avenue for the Squakheag Tribe No. 149, Improved Order of Red Men to build a hall. Herbert had begun to hunt at the age of 14 and he was also an avid fisherman who was a leader in the Fish and Game Club. About 1909 he had coonskin coats made for him and his wife (hers used 34 skins) from racoons he had hunted. The flesh of racoons is delicious if properly cooked, and he supplied a number of hotels in the county, often hunting all night and covering 20 miles or more. Carpentry was another of his skills, passed on to his family.

In March 1912, the sawmill was sold to Roselle and Frank Evans, who operated it for some years, powered by electricity; it was still operating in 1930. Later it was a paintshop of William and Donald Huber. The upper building of the mill is now a private home, and remains of the lower mill and dam can still be seen. From about 1915 - 1930, Herbert Reed was manager of the Northfield Hotel garage, where he also was a skilled mechanic. The Reeds continued to live on Glen Road during that period.

On May 4, 1918, Reed was driving four young women after dark in Ashuelot, NH when his automobile was struck by a passing vehicle and it went into the Ashuelot River. All were thrown into water ten to twelve feet deep. Herbert managed to save three of the women from drowning, and made an heroic effort to rescue the fourth. For his valor, he received one of four Carnegie Medals given nationwide and $1000.

Herbert was active in town affairs, and was one of its most respected citizens. He was a good man who liked to mingle. A member of the fire department, he fought the Town Hall fire in 1924 and later was town Fire Warden. In 1930 the Reeds bought from James Quinlan the house on Main Street (now #97), where May Whittle had been married to Will Moody. Next door Reed built a gas station, also selling radios from a shop in the back. Sadly, Herbert Reed died on July 17, 1931 at age 50. His son Francis remains in town, for many years a mechanic at area garages and custodian of the Trinitarian Church. He has ridden high bicycles at many major local events.

George Washington Carr
(1883-1968)

George Washington Carr was born at Walkill, New York, July 2, 1883. After limited formal schooling he was employed as a wheelwright.

As a very young man he came to Northfield, Massachusetts to work at the Northfield Seminary. He was probably recruited by Mr. Polhemus, the farm boss, or he might have been referred to him.

When he began to work he was assigned to assist Mr. Everett Kingsbury, who was in charge of the Maintenance Mechanic Shop. From that moment he became an essential part of the Physical Plant Department. Mr. Carr was a natural born engineer who could figure, design and build almost anything that was required. He was an excellent blacksmith, an accomplished brick mason, and a landscape gardener of exceptional ability.

He not only served the Northfield Seminary very well, but his accomplishments in the town were outstanding. He was elected as Selectmen at three different times for a total of fifteen years. The years that he served were especially marked by the smooth relations between the school and the town. Mr. Carr is credited with making this "town and gown" situation both pleasant and productive.

He was also the chairman of the Draft Board during World War II, by its nature a difficult position. He was active in the Boys Brigade and other community activities for young people. A friend said, "When a truck was needed to go on a camping trip or other outing, he could always make one appear." In addition to all his school and community responsibilities he was an officer of his church.

One of his employees made the following observation about Mr. Carr, which reflects his abilities and his methods of working. "When he was riding around in his pickup truck and he saw something that needed doing, he just got out and tended to it. He did not go back to the shop and send somebody else out."

He was truly a man for all seasons. The family still owns the Winchester Road home he built for them in 1910.

Mr. Carr died on July 3, 1968, the day after his 85th birthday, and he is buried in the West Northfield Cemetery.

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Charles Sumner Tenney
(1885-1969)

C.S. Tenney was principally known in Northfield as the proprietor of Tenney Farms in Pine Meadow, Northfield Farms, an occupation he practiced for nearly a half century. He then managed the largest dairy farm in the Lower Farms, and one of the largest and most "advanced" in town, and even further afield. His farm was particularly noted for being the home of Jersey cows, which yielded the richest of milk and milk products.

After attending schools in Jacksonville and Vernon, and working on the John Wright farm in Vernon, the Arthur Proctor Livery Stable in Northfield, Mass., and A.A. Dunklee's Walnut Grove Farm, Charlie was married in South Vernon, on June 9, 1908, by the Rev. Lewis Sperry Chafer of East Northfield, Mass. He soon moved to West Northfield with his young bride, the former Louella F. Dunklee, renting the Paul Moody farm for one year. With the help of his father-in-law, he purchased the Frank Parker farm (formerly Thomas Metcalf's) in Pine Meadow, Northfield Farms, moving there on December 15 in 1909.

In 1910, the year after Charlie bought the farm, there were nearly 190 farms in Northfield, but only two were called dairy farms. For several years the family lived right on the farm, where all seven daughters were born (though one died at birth). With all his brothers, Charlie had help to choose from. Jessie was there in 1910, and in 1920 brother Claude lived in, and his older brother Clarence and family were next door. He later built several silos and barns and bought up many surrounding acres of land and several farms, including: the Ernest Motchman farm (sold to Mike Sytnik); the Browning, or Ostroski farm; the Frank Montague farm; the Alexander farm (now Alice Lord's); and the Dymerski farm. He built six houses for the help, one of which he sold to Stanley Dembek.

After purchase and rebuilding of the Montague place on Millers Falls Rd., now the home of his grandson, Jonathan Fowler, the family moved in on July 23, 1925. It was then that the center chimney was removed. There he survived the flood of 1927, in which the waters of the Connecticut rose around the barns in the Meadow, but with little damage; a farm fire in 1932; the Great Depression; and even the great flood of 1936, which washed through the valley, covering the low-lying Pine Meadow, destroying all but one of his herd, all the machinery, and nearly irrevocably damaging the buildings. They had the prescience to move the poultry housed by the river to higher ground, but it was too late for the rest. Near ruin, and without the help of Gov. Curley, who had personally promised it, and without any other manner of federal or state relief, it looked bleak. But with an unimaginable resource of pride, he did not declare bankruptcy, and he did manage to return the farm to its former state, but not before surviving the hurricane of 1938, and a second fire in 1940.

Across the road from his house he built the Tenney Farms Filling Station in 1931, which was for many years the commercial, and to some extent social, center of Farms life. It also served as his office, and was mostly run by his daughter Grace Young. The following year he went to St. Louis for the Northeastern feeders and dealers Purina meet. He was also honored then with a gold medal for consistent achievement in dairy farming by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture for outstanding accomplishments in agriculture and rural life.

During these years he had two truck routes for delivery of his milk to the big cities: one to Springfield, and the other to the Boston area, the latter of which also included picking up other farmers' milk for delivery. The one to Boston area dairies was eventually bought by Bill Zabko. Charlie's herd, incidentally, was from the Owl Interest line of Jerseys, the same line as found at the Sibley Farm in Spencer, Mass. In the late 30s he was briefly pasturizing and bottling milk right on the farm. And by 1939 he was channeling all of his own herd's milk to Greenfield, where he had established Tenney Farms Dairy, originally run by his brother Raymond, and later by his son-in-law, Norman Fowler. It was first situated in a rented space on Davis St., followed by the puchase of a garage on Birch St., before moving to the permanent location at 338 High St.

If all these enterprises, brain tumors, and other acts of God, were not enough to keep the man busy, he was able to find time to participate and host meetings of the American Jersey Cattle Club, who several times honored him for cow production; to serve as trustee of Field Library trust funds; to serve as superintendent of roads several years, as well as selectman and assessor of the town of Northfield; and to ensure that the children got to school. In the early days he had a horse and wagon take the kids from the Meadow up to the No.4 school during the winter; and later, he was instrumental in getting them upstreet, when it was time for higher education.

John Mankowski
(June 23, 1886 - April 12, 1971)
Born in Poland

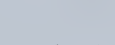
Viola Mankowski
(June 2, 1896 - September 27, 1986)
Born in Poland

A reflection given at a family picnic in 1986

Today is Dad's 100th birthday; Ma was 90. May we reflect on the values they brought with them from the Old World. Let us not be deluded into thinking that those values are out of vogue in today's world. Their basic philosophy is just as relevant today and will be a thousand years from now.

All too often we hear that things are different today - we do not believe that. Their values will always have merit. Let us be thankful for having such forebears. Their basics are just as desirable now as they were then or will be far into the future. Let us not forget them, and try to pass them along to our children.

Northfield Provides a New Beginning for a Ukrainian Family



Paul Gorzocoski (1890-1930)
Julia Chudz Gorzocoski (1891-1988)

These two people, my parents, arrived separately from the Ukraine and were processed through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. Mother worked as a cook and maid to the president of Amherst College. Father worked in a steel mill in Holyoke until he gave it up to lease land and farm in Sunderland.

By attending weddings and receptions of mutual friends, my father and mother met each other and started seeing one another regularly. They married and lived in a small upstairs apartment in Sunderland. Visiting friends who had bought homes and farms, they considered doing the same.

In time, they heard of a farm in Northfield and at the urging of friends, one of whom had a touring car with a roof but no side curtains, they decided to make the day-long trip to Northfield. They packed a picnic lunch and stopped in Greenfield at a nice grassy hillside on Bernardston Road, where large homes exist today.

They arrived at the farm on East Street owned by the Newtons. They were shown all around and were awed by the size and space of the house and barn. They learned that the long shed connecting the house to the big barn had been a broom factory employing quite a few people.

Subsequently they pooled their resources and bought the farm. Mother gave up her job and they packed their meager belongings for the move. As friends waved good-by, they suddenly found themselves alone in the huge, bare 14' x 16' kitchen. The appalling thought of what they had done hit home. Here they were in an empty, bare house: no money, no jobs and a one year-old son. They clung to each other, crying.

Facing reality, they knew they must work hard. They needed horses, tools, wood. The land was good and it was theirs!

They did work hard. They worked terribly hard through the years of farming and raising four children. In those early years, however, they never worked on Sunday other than to do the necessary farm chores. Survival was uppermost. In fact, I had not learned to speak English by the time I entered school. They knew and understood English, but there was never time to teach me. Speaking their native Ukranian was easier.

They had only eleven years together. My father died when I was nine years old. My mother managed to maintain the farm and keep the family together against almost impossible odds during and after the depression years.

When I look back I realize how difficult it was for them and what tremendous courage these people must have had to come to a new and strange land, hoping to fulfill their dreams.

Edward Merriam Powell
(1892-1965)

Edward Merriam Powell first came to Northfield as a Williams College undergraduate friend of Frank Fitt, nephew of Arthur Percy Fitt. "Ed" (or "Silver") enjoyed the Fitts' relaxed hospitality in a country setting where groups of young men and women from various schools could hike, picnic, climb nearby Mount Monadnock, play tennis, or combine their talents in impromptu skits and games. By the time Ed graduated at age twenty, the Fitts' young teen age daughter, Emma Moody Fitt, was reaching college age, old enough to be invited as a date to Ed's graduation.

One way and another Northfield became the home town Ed (born May 6, 1892) had never had as an only child of elderly parents in Grand Rapids, Michigan, sent to boarding school in Pennsylvania soon after the death of his father when he was 11 years old.

By 1917 Ed had had a year of Columbia School of Journalism and started working in New York City until World War I came along. He enlisted in August 1917, was trained as a pilot, and by November 22, 1917 persuaded Emma to leave Vassar College and get married. They were the first couple to be married in Russell Sage Chapel. When he was sent to France in mid-1918, Emma joined her mother in Northfield. Soon after Ed returned, in time for the birth of their first child, Virginia, in February 1919, a job became available in Philadelphia. During Ed and Emma's 15 years in that area their three sons were born, Edward, Jr. and twins Jack and David.

There were many visits and vacations in Northfield during those years so the family always felt in touch with town affairs - and aware of all it offered as a place to bring up children. In 1937 they moved north and by 1941 were residents of Northfield while Ed covered western Massachusetts from his U.S. Treasury Department Savings Bond Division in Springfield.

Once settled in, Ed and his wife or sons, or both, took part in as many local activities as possible, even starting up a few new ones. His job kept him from running for office but he helped with church, school and town activities any way he could - like speaking up at Town Meetings for causes needing support.

Some of the varied groups he belonged to were: the Northfield Planning Board, trustee of Linden Hill School, chairman of the War Memorial Committee, co-author of the town's monthly letter to servicemen, member of the Haven H. Spencer Post, American Legion and Harmony Lodge, and organizer of the Humdinger Club for retired men in Northfield.

As for being a resident of the town he lived in for 24 years continuously, no fifth generation local son could speak with more affection and appreciation than he did of the place he called home.

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Ernest A. Parker

(January 24, 1904 - February 14, 1987)
Son of Charles A. and Fanny (Kelly) Parker

Ernest Parker was my great-grandfather. He was born on the ~~Riverside~~ view Dairy Farm, which is right across the road from where I live. He went to school in Northfield and Mount Hermon School for Boys. He rode the ferry across the river to go to school and in the winter he walked across the ice. He worked on his family's dairy farm for many years. In 1920, his family owned the first tractor cultivator in New England. When he was a young teenager, he bought a high bicycle for around $4.00. He, his brother Willis, and Francis Reed were the only ones around with those high bicycles. He rode in the original French King Bridge dedication in 1932. My grandfather, Arthur James, rode the same bicycle in the re-dedication of the bridge in 1992.

In 1925, he married my great-grandmother, Mary Towne.

In 1948, he started his own business picking up milk at dairy farms in Massachusetts, southern Vermont and New Hampshire. When he started out, he collected raw milk in cans - forty quart cans that held eighty-six pounds of milk. He started with one truck, and less than one year later he had five trucks. In 1955, he bought his first tank truck. It had a 2300 gallon tank. In 1959, he traded it for a 3500 gallon tank, and in 1972 he traded again for a 5000 gallon tank truck.

His hobby was photography. He filled albums with hundreds of photographs taken around Northfield and places he visited. He had pictures of everything from a neighbor's pig, to his brothers with an injured deer, to the flood of 1936, to Charles Lindbergh when he visited Springfield, Vermont.

After he retired in 1979, he spent a lot of his time organizing his photographs and newspaper clippings. He also drove to the Hood plant every Friday to visit the people at the plant and to pick up a supply of milk for the week. When it snowed, he plowed seven driveways with his green Scout plow, which is still plowing snow in Vernon, Vermont.

"Buppa" died when I was 2 1/2 years old, but I remember sitting with him in his orange chair in the living room. I remember him wheeling me around in his wheelbarrow. When my cousins and my sister and I were born, Buppa was the first person to hold us when we came home from the hospital. I didn't know Buppa for very long, but I miss him very much.

Ernest Parker holding his great-grandson James Clark.

Ernest Parker holding James Clark

Dr. Frank Wilton Dean
(1904-1967)

Dr. Dean and Dr. True were probably the last country doctors in Franklin County. F. Wilton Dean was born on September 4, 1904 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. He was the son of Frederick Powers and Edith (Townsend) Dean and had one sister, Marion Louise Dean Morse. His appreciation for country living may have stemmed from the fact that his family had a farm in Montague when he was young. Later they moved to Riddell Street in Greenfield.

After graduating from Greenfield High School, Wilton Dean was encouraged by the Methodist minister to attend DePauw University in Indiana. He applied to and was accepted at Harvard Medical School. It was at Harvard that he met Marion Evelyn Wyman (born April 29, 1909), an R.N. from Keene, NH who had trained at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Following his 18 months of internship at Hartford Hospital, they were married on January 6, 1933, and Dr. Dean set up practice in Bernardston.

A year and a half later, the Deans moved to Northfield, where they bought the Unitarian parsonage at 90 Main Street, next to the Youth Hostel. That house became too small for his growing family as Janet was born in 1935, Norman in 1938 and Russell in 1944. When Russell was just six months old they moved to the big brown house at 185 Main Street. It had an entrance on the north side into a large hall that served as a waiting room. There was space for an examining room, with an exit by the back porch, and a laboratory where Dr. Dean always did his own bloodwork.

Dr. Dean rigged up a buzzer for calling his wife from elsewhere in the house if he needed her nursing assistance. One time a woman telephoned to say that she was about to have her baby, and he told her to come in right away. They delivered the baby there in the office, without anyone in the waiting room even realizing it.

Dr. Dean would get up to do blood sugars on his diabetic patients before they had breakfast. He liked to go out and make his house calls first thing in the morning, after which he would see his hospital patients. He was on the staff of three hospitals: Farren, Franklin County and Brattleboro. Office hours at 185 Main Street were from 1-3 in the afternoon and from 7-8 in the evening, or until all waiting patients were seen. After a while they did go to an appointment system, which helped. Dr. Dean was likely to be called out to someone's home at any time during the night. Whenever he was at home he was on call. He also spent his free time going on rounds at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston to keep his skills up-to-date.

In 1938 they bought a cottage at Lake Spofford in New Hampshire, where they would go on Sundays. Dr. Dean sailed in the Lightning Class boat races at Spofford, Marblehead and Portland with his daughter Jan and son Norman as crew. For relaxation, Dr. Dean enjoyed playing his Hammond Organ, and painting. He took his family on many trips to Florida, Cape Cod, etc. They had a narrow escape from the 1938 hurricane while vacationing on Cape Cod. The Deans drove 10,000 miles across the country in three weeks with friends to visit the National Parks.

During the war years Dr. Dean was especially busy, since many area doctors were away in the service. It was routine to be called out all over the area for emergencies all night - Leyden, Vernon, Bernardston - and often Mrs. Dean would drive for him. Once he had to snowshoe to a house in Leyden to deliver a baby.

Dr. Dean belonged to the Trinitarian Church, the Greenfield Rotary Club, Masons, and the Northfield Planning Board among other activities: he had many interests. When he died on July 21, 1967, at age 62, only two of the Deans' nine grandchildren had been born. With their families, their daughter Janet Dean Mace lives in Illinois, son Norman is in Keene, and son Russell lives in Turners Falls.

Dr. Ansel B. True

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Dr. Ansel True was a family man and a family physician. He moved to Northfield with his wife Evelyn and two young children in 1946. In the twenty-six years he practiced medicine in Northfield he and his family, now four children, integrated themselves into every aspect of community life and the lives of every family.

His personal life was characterized by perseverance, which carried him through Bowdoin College (1930) and Yale Medical School (1935). Following graduation, his first medical practice in Hillsdale, New York was abbreviated by World War II. He became one of the first U.S. Army medical officers in Africa to serve with a tank destroyer battalion. They chased Rommel across the desert, crossed into Italy, and advanced north through Europe. Unless you recognized the medal he wore so proudly on his lapel, you would not have known that he was awarded the bronze star for his military service.

After three years in the Army it was necessary to do a year of postgraduate work at Yale to reacquaint himself with civilian medicine before resuming private practice.

It was by accident that he settled in Northfield. He wanted a small town and a quiet environment in which to raise his family. His patients became part of his extended family. There are more than a few adults in the town who can claim that Dr. True delivered them, their children, and their grandchildren. At high school graduations, he made check marks next to the names of the "babies" he had delivered. Only the ministers attended more weddings and funerals than he did. At weddings, he was as proud as the parents, at funerals he shared the family loss.

Dr. True lived in the Alexander Homestead on Main Street. He was anxious to preserve the architectural integrity of the town's history. He worked hard to institute zoning laws. He was not against progress, but wanted new construction to harmonize with the older buildings. The fire station is one example of how hard he worked to achieve this.

He was also interested in the public schools. As a member of the Pioneer Valley Regional School Planning Committee, he demonstrated his concern for education. When it was built, he served there as school physician until he retired.

There is a plaque in Dr. True's memory in the entrance at PVRS. There is a picture of him in the 1972 Town Report. He left his mark

Paul Douglas Bolton

(December 20, 1949 - May 30, 1989)

Paul Douglas Bolton was the first born child and the first born son of Arthur Henry and Elizabeth Phelps Bolton, who lived first at 176 Main Street and later on 236 Birnam Road, in a house that was once a dormitory for the Northfield School. The house was moved to Birnam Road sometime in the 1920s.

Paul attended Pioneer Valley Regional High School, graduating in the class of 1968. Paul's father and his grandfather were carpenters, and by the age of 12, Paul had determined that that was what he wanted to do also. After school and during the summer, Paul apprenticed with his father and also with Dana Leavis, whose carpentry business, Leavis and Bolton, was well known in Northfield.

Dana Leavis noticed that Paul was gifted in drafting and urged him to go to Wentworth Institute in Boston to study architectural drafting. Paul attended Wentworth for less than a year. City life did not agree with him and he returned to Northfield where he continued his studies at Greenfield Community College and resumed work for Dana Leavis. When Mr. Leavis retired, Paul worked for his father. Paul became a fine craftsman who worked on numerous old homes and barns in Northfield and in the surrounding towns of Vernon(VT), Winchester and Ashuelot (NH).

In October of 1984, Paul married Edie Clark, a writer who lived in Chesham, NH. Coincidentally, Chesham was the homeplace of the Phelps family. Paul's mother, Elizabeth, was one of 12 children born to Florence (Seaver) Phelps. Mrs. Phelps was the librarian in Northfield for many years. Although Paul's mother had not yet been born during the years that the Phelpses lived in Chesham, her older brother John Edward (the well known artist) has written a book of memories revolving around Chesham.

Paul moved to Chesham and established his own business, Fine Woodworking. He worked mostly alone and did numerous renovations to old buildings, using the meticulous craftsmanship he had learned from his father and from Dana Leavis.

While living in Chesham, Paul joined the Chesham Baptist Church, where he was elected deacon. In searching the church records, he found that his great grandfather had also been a deacon of that church.

Paul was particularly adept at laying slate. His expertise in the art of slate roofs was featured in an article published in *Yankee* magazine in May of 1982. That article has been reprinted in the book *Forgotten Arts, Book V,* which has sold over 200,000 copies and is still in print.

Paul's life came to a tragic end in 1989, after a three-year battle with cancer. He had not yet reached his fortieth birthday. In spite of his illness, he continued to work at his carpentry, salvaging a dilapidated barn for his shop and renovating an old farmhouse for himself and Edie, in Chesham. His life and that, his last work, is chronicled in the memoir *The Place He Made*, written by Edie Clark and published in 1995 by Random House.

Paul is buried in the Willard Hill Cemetery in Chesham, New Hampshire.

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